



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman**

Important Passport Security Enhancement: No Amendments

September 27, 2005

Effective September 26, 2005, as an additional security enhancement, the Department of State Passport Services -- and all overseas diplomatic posts, including Embassy Athens and Consulate General Thessaloniki -- will no longer amend valid passports to change items appearing on the data page (Name, Date of Birth, Gender, Date of Issuance, Date of Expiration). Customers requesting name changes, extensions of validity for limited passports, or corrections of printing errors must apply for replacement passports. Additional visa pages may still be added to existing passports.

If the change is *within one year after issuance*, customers must submit a U.S. Passport Re-Application Form (DS-5504), together with the passport that needs the change, the documentation required, and new passport pictures. There will be no charge for routine processing.

If the change is *more than one year after issuance*, customers must submit an Application for a U.S. Passport by Mail (DS-82), or an Application for a U.S. Passport (DS-11), as appropriate. In addition, applicants must present the passport that needs the change, the documentation required, new pictures, and pay the required fees. If the requested data change is due to a printing error by Passport Services, there will be no charge.

Those only needing to add visa pages to their passports will submit an Application for Additional Visa Pages (DS-4085). This service is always free of charge when routine.

All of these forms will be available online at <http://travel.state.gov>. For more information on applying for a U.S. passport, forms, and a wealth of other international travel information, please visit our website at <http://travel.state.gov>